

Seattle Council PTSA
Resolution 2018/10-1.1

A RESOLUTION of the Seattle Council of Parent Teacher Students Associations (SCPTSA) to declare the explicit prioritization of equity in its service to ALL families of Seattle Public Schools and in its duty as a representative Council of PTSA's in the District; and to declare the operationalization of said prioritization through coordinated support and leadership of SCPTSA members in the advancement of equitable access, membership, programming, collaboration, training, leadership, and governance of time, space and other resources within their school communities and beyond;

WHEREAS, equity is defined in this educational context as the opportunity, support and inspiration afforded each child in realizing his/her/their gifts and afforded his/her/their family's contribution to that realization;

WHEREAS, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA, PTSA) are a voice for every child and advocates for the well-being and education of all children;

WHEREAS, SCPTSA purpose is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children;

WHEREAS, the population of Seattle Public Schools is fifty-three percent (53%) students of color representing dozens of distinct cultural groups and over 143 languages;

WHEREAS, thirty-two percent (32%) of the population of Seattle Public Schools is low income, of which less than twelve percent (12%) identify as White, and fifteen percent (15%) of students have disabilities and of which (57%) are students of color;

WHEREAS, thirteen percent (13%) of the population of Seattle Public Schools do not speak English as a first language and of which over 95% are students of color;

WHEREAS, the Seattle School Board affirmed via Resolution No. 2016/17-12 In accordance with District policy and procedure as well as Superintendent Nyland's February 2017 letter to families, that Seattle School District staff will not ask for, nor record, student or family immigration status; and reaffirms our commitment to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every student without regard to their race, religion, national origin, or immigration status;

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools has acknowledged the real and statistically significant gaps in opportunity for the aforementioned student majority and responded to said disparity via Policy 0030 Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity to: eliminate the racial predictability and disproportionality in all aspects of education and its administration including commitments to

Equitable Access, Racial Equity, Workforce Equity, Professional Development, Welcoming School Environments, Partnerships, Multiple Pathways to Success, Recognizing Diversity;

WHEREAS, the Seattle Public Schools Strategic Plan Goal #1, Priority #1 is eliminating opportunity gaps supported by Smart Goals
#1 Educational Excellence for Each and Every Student (MTSS) and
#2 Eliminate Opportunity Gaps in Students Access Transforming Adult Attitude, Beliefs and Actions;

WHEREAS, the National PTA has specific Policy on Diversity and Inclusion which states: the National Congress of Mothers, irrespective of creed, color or condition, stands for all parenthood, childhood, homehood; the recognition of diversity within organizations is valuing differences and similarities in people through actions and accountability; and PTAs at every level must:

- Openly assess beliefs and practices to assure inclusiveness and guard against discrimination;
- Make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that is inclusive and reflective of its community;
- Encourage that all PTA activities at the school be planned by a committee which is representative of the population;
- Foster programs and practices that eliminate bias, prejudice and misunderstanding within their communities;
- Become acquainted with the leaders of the many diverse groups in the community and collaborate with them to increase parent, family and community involvement;
- Educate its leaders and members to the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions and family structures of the population they serve; and
- Propose change wherever discriminatory practices are perceived.

WHEREAS, National PTA provides specific self-audit and toolkit supports to enhance the diversity and inclusion policy;

WHEREAS the Seattle Education Association (SEA) defines equity in education as the means to achieve justice in educational practices, policies, curricula, and resources; and demands taking action to reverse historical and social disadvantages that prevent learners from accessing and benefiting from education on equal grounds;

WHEREAS, the SEA has resolved through its Center for Race and Equity: to empower educators, both individually and collectively to dismantle racial injustice in the SEA, our schools, our community, and our profession.

WHEREAS, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction includes as a top priority the closure of [opportunity gaps](#) that exist for our students who are of color, low-income, and from other populations who have faced systemic barriers to their success; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act contains a number of meaningful levers that education leaders, parents, members of the business and civil rights communities, and advocates can use to advance education equity including:

- Consistent, state-adopted standards for all students that are aligned with the demands of postsecondary education and work;
- Statewide annual assessments aligned with statewide standards;
- Clear requirements that statewide accountability systems must expect more progress for the groups of students who have been behind, base school ratings on the progress of all groups of students, and expect action when any group of students is consistently underperforming;
- Richer public reporting on academic outcomes and opportunities to learn for all groups of students, including, for the first time, school-level per-pupil spending and access to rigorous coursework;
- Resources to support teachers and leaders, and a demand that states and districts report on and address inequities in the rates at which low-income students and students of color are assigned to ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers; and
- Continued targeting of federal funding to the highest poverty schools and district;


WHEREAS, public schools are the foundation of our democracy and we acknowledge that inequities and segregation exist in our school district and city, and that we must critically examine the role that we in PTA/PTSA's have in upholding or dismantling inequities in our system, and work intentionally in a united effort of community and school for equitable opportunities and outcomes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle Council PTSA board and membership declares the aspiration of equity to be core to its values, purpose and action; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the SCPTSA commits to, demands and holds itself and its members accountable for the centralization of equity work to all of its endeavors, partnerships and collaborations.

ADOPTED by SCPTSA at a regular general membership meeting, held October 1, 2018.

- SCPTSA President: Chandra Hampson 

- Resolution prepared by SCPTSA President, Chandra Hampson